

PENNSYLVANIA RULES OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

DISABILITY AND LANGUAGE ACCESS

DISABILITY ACCESS

Rule 250. Policy

It is the policy of the Unified Judicial System (UJS) to prohibit discrimination against any individual with a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131 *et seq.*, in accessing or participating in judicial proceedings or other services, programs, or activities of the UJS.

Rule 251. Scope

These rules shall apply to each UJS entity which includes, but is not limited to, all appellate courts, judicial districts, boards, committees, and agencies under the administrative authority of the Supreme Court. These rules relating to reasonable accommodations under Title II of the ADA do not supersede either the requirements of 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 4401 *et seq.*, relating to Court Interpreters for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, or the Administrative Regulations Governing Language Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency and for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, 204 Pa. Code §§ 221.101 *et seq.*

Note: The Administrative Regulations Governing Language Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency and for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (204 Pa. Code §§ 221.101 *et seq.*) and 42 Pa.C.S. §§ 4401 *et seq.* provide standards for court interpreters in judicial proceedings. “Judicial proceeding” is defined, in pertinent part, as “an ‘action,’ ‘appeal’ or ‘proceeding’ in any court of this Commonwealth.” 2 Pa.C.S. § 101. Title II of the ADA requires an interpreter for the deaf or hard of hearing for all programs, services, or activities of the UJS. See 42 U.S.C. § 12132; 28 C.F.R. § 35.160.

Rule 252. Reasonable Accommodations

- A. Each UJS entity shall develop a written policy to receive and process requests for reasonable accommodations from individuals with disabilities. The policy shall be posted on the UJS website, each UJS entity’s respective website, and in each courthouse and office in the court system.
- B. All policies developed must be substantially similar to the policy appended to this Rule (Appendix A) and shall contain, at a minimum, the following elements:
 1. Appointment of an ADA coordinator – the coordinator must be identified

on all court or program materials and the following information shall be provided: the coordinator's name, work address, work fax number or e-mail address, and work telephone number.

2. Notice of the right to request free accommodation(s).
 3. Explanation of the process for requesting accommodation(s).
 4. Timeline for request and response.
- C. Each UJS entity shall develop a form substantially similar to the one appended to this rule (Appendix A) for processing requests for reasonable accommodations.
- D. Each UJS entity shall adopt and publish a grievance procedure, substantially similar to the procedure appended to this rule (Appendix B), for requests that have been denied in whole or in part. Any denial of an accommodation request based upon undue burden or fundamental alteration to services and programs shall be put in writing by the head of the entity or his or her designee and shall provide specific reasons for the denial.

Note: In 2014, each UJS entity was required to provide the Administrative Office with a copy of their ADA policy and form and their grievance procedure and form, as outlined in sections A-D above.

APPENDIX A - Sample policy and forms

APPENDIX B - Sample grievance procedure including form

APPENDIX A

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (TITLE II) POLICY

The Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania (UJS) complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which provides that “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity”. 42 U.S.C.A. §12132. Pursuant to that requirement, if you are an individual with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in any judicial proceeding or any other service, program, or activity of the UJS, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. The ADA does not require the (UJS entity name here) to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

If you require an accommodation under the ADA, it is recommended that you make your request as soon as possible or at least three (3) business days before your scheduled participation in any court proceeding or UJS program or activity. All requests for accommodation, regardless of timeliness, will be given due consideration and if necessary, may require an interactive process between the requestor and the (name of UJS entity) to determine the best course of action.

To request a reasonable accommodation, please complete the *Request for Reasonable Accommodation Form* (Appendix B) and return it to:

Name(s), Business Address(es), Fax Number(s) and / or e-mail address(es),
Telephone Number(s) of the ADA Coordinator

If you need assistance completing this form, contact the ADA Coordinator. Complaints alleging violations of Title II under the ADA may be filed pursuant to the UJS Grievance Procedure with (name and contact information of individual who handles grievance procedures). A response will be sent to you after careful review of the facts.



APPENDIX A
FOR USE BY JUDICIAL DISTRICTS ONLY

UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ACCOMMODATION (ADA) TITLE II REQUEST FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FORM
(INCLUDES REQUEST FOR INTERPRETER FOR HEARING /SPEECH IMPAIRED)

Client Information – Section A

Name: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____
_____	Mobile: _____

Please check the box that most closely describes your status in this matter:

- Litigant
 Plaintiff
 Defendant
 Parent
 Child
 Witness
 Attorney
 Victim
 Juror
 Other (please explain) _____

Requestor Information (if different from above)

Name: _____	Bus. Phone/ Mobile: _____
Address: _____	Fax: _____
Relationship to Client: _____	Email: _____
	TTY: _____

Accommodation

Nature of the disability for which an accommodation is requested: _____

Accommodation requested: _____

Location of Proceeding

Proceeding Information (if known)

<input type="checkbox"/> Magisterial District Court No. _____ District Judge Name: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Division <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Division <input type="checkbox"/> Orphans' Court Division <input type="checkbox"/> Family Division <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Specify Address: _____	Case #: _____ Case Name: _____ Judge: _____ Proceeding Date: _____ Proceeding Time: _____ Proceeding Type: _____
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AFTER COMPLETING THE FORM, PLEASE SEND TO: COUNTY ADA COORDINATOR

I hereby certify that an Americans with Disabilities Act accommodation is required in the above-captioned action on the date stated.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Service Provider Information - Section B

A SERVICE REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE CLIENT NAMED ABOVE.

Service Provider Company: _____	Fax: _____
Individual Interpreter Name: _____	Email: _____
Bus. Phone/ Mobile: _____	Date to Provider: _____

Court Official Verification – Section C

VERIFYING OFFICIAL SHALL MAINTAIN A COPY IN THE COURT'S CASE FILE AND PROVIDE THE ORIGINAL TO THE SERVICE PROVIDER FOR SUBMISSION WITH BILLING.

I hereby verify that the services were performed by the provider in the above-captioned action on the date and time stated.

Start Date & Time: _____	End Date & Time: _____
Court Official: _____ <i>(Please print name)</i>	Signature: _____
Title: _____	Date: _____



APPENDIX A

UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ACCOMMODATION (ADA) TITLE II REQUEST FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FORM (INCLUDES REQUEST FOR INTERPRETER FOR HEARING /SPEECH IMPAIRED)

Client Information - Section A

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____
Mobile: _____

Please check the box that most closely describes your status in this matter:
[] Litigant [] Plaintiff [] Defendant [] Parent [] Child [] Witness [] Attorney [] Victim [] Juror
[] Other (please explain) _____

Requestor Information (if different from above)

Name: _____ Bus. Phone/ Mobile: _____
Address: _____ Fax: _____
Relationship to Client: _____ Email: _____
TTY: _____

Accommodation

Nature of the disability for which an accommodation is requested: _____

Accommodation requested: _____

Location of Proceeding Proceeding Information (if known)
Name of Office: _____ Case #: _____
Address: _____ Case Name: _____
Judge: _____
Proceeding Date: _____ Proceeding Time: _____
Proceeding Type: _____

AFTER COMPLETING THE FORM, PLEASE SEND TO: ADA COORDINATOR

I hereby certify that an Americans with Disabilities Act accommodation is required in the above-captioned action on the date stated.
Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Service Provider Information - Section B

A SERVICE REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE CLIENT NAMED ABOVE.
Service Provider Company: _____ Fax: _____
Individual Interpreter Name: _____ Email: _____
Bus. Phone/ Date to Provider: _____
Mobile: _____

Court Official Verification - Section C

VERIFYING OFFICIAL SHALL MAINTAIN A COPY IN THE COURT'S CASE FILE AND PROVIDE THE ORIGINAL TO THE SERVICE PROVIDER FOR SUBMISSION WITH BILLING.

I hereby verify that the services were performed by the provider in the above-captioned action on the date and time stated.
Start Date & Time: _____ End Date & Time: _____
Court Official: _____ Signature: _____
(Please print name)
Title: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX B

Americans with Disabilities Act (Title II) Grievance Procedure

This grievance procedure is established for the prompt resolution of complaints alleging any violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the provision of services, programs, or activities by the Unified Judicial System (UJS). If you require a reasonable accommodation to complete this form, or need this form in an alternate format, please contact [ADA coordinator information].

To file a complaint under the Grievance Procedure please take the following steps:

1. Complete the complaint form and return to [ADA Coordinator or designated individual]. Alternative means of filing complaints will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request. The complaint should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the alleged violation.
2. Within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, the [ADA Coordinator or designated individual] will investigate the complaint, including, meeting with the individual seeking an accommodation, either in person or via telephone, to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the meeting, the [ADA Coordinator or designated individual] will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio. The response will explain the position of the [name of UJS entity] and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.
3. If the response to the complaint does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant may appeal the decision within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the response to [designated individual]. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the [designated individual] will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after the meeting, the [designated individual] will respond in writing,

and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

This grievance procedure is informal. An individual's participation in this informal process is completely voluntary. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to and does not preclude a complainant from pursuing other remedies available under law.

The UJS Policy on Non-Discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity also encompasses disability-related issues and provides complaint procedures for UJS court users. Any employment-related disability discrimination complaints will be governed by the UJS Policy on Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity.



APPENDIX B

UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TITLE II
GRIEVANCE FORM

Grievant Information

Grievant Name: _____	Home Phone (include area code): _____
Address: _____	Business Phone (include area code): _____
	Mobile Phone (include area code): _____

Alternative Contact Person (other than Grievant)

Name: _____	Home Phone (include area code): _____
Address: _____	Business Phone (include area code): _____
	Relationship To Client: _____

Court Service, Program or Facility Allegedly in Violation

Date and Location of Alleged Violation (dd/mm/yyyy)

Description of Alleged Violation and Requested Remedy

Has this case been filed with the Department of Justice or other government agency or court?
Yes No

If You Answered "Yes" to the Previous Question, Complete the Following

Agency or Court: _____	Contact Person: _____
Address: _____	Phone (include area code): _____
	Date Filed: _____

Other Comments

Signature: _____ Date: _____